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Did CIA Funds Aid Young Dem Groups?

By ALAN APPELBAUM

MASSILLON—Virgil Musser, president of the Young Democrats of America (YDCA), is going to try to find out whether CIA money subsidized foreign travel by some young Democrats, but doesn't feel such subsidy is necessarily bad. "I have not been aware of CIA subsidies to my organization, but I do not think they would be harmful to youth organizations."

MUSSER, who is also Massillon City Solicitor, said:

"Travel abroad is essential for young people. Congress or private foundations are going to have to help young people."

Musser has been directed by YDCA's national committee to investigate any possible ties between Central Intelligence Agency money and international functions of Young Democrats.

Musser said he will raise the issue when the U. S. Youth Council of which the YDCA is an affiliate, meets in Washington March 3-5.

A RESOLUTION adopted last Sunday by the YDCA committee denounced the CIA for secretly subsidizing attendance of some American youths at international conferences, and asserted that young Americans could and represent the U. S. abroad "without secret payment."

Musser, as president, selected YDCA representatives in such undertakings. Within the last year, he recalled, the YDCA was represented on a council-sponsored trip to India by Joan Burt, a Negro lawyer, and Gene Thoreau, both of Washington.

Musser said he has never

taken any trips with the YDCA and has never been told by any members that CIA funds were used.

"The resolution passed by the national committee was directed toward other youth organizations rather than the Young Democrats," he said.